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**Category III Inquiry Submittal**

**a. Title:** *Trinity River Tributaries Agricultural Water Conservation Program*

**Submitted by:** Trinity County Planning Department, Natural Resources Division P. O. Box 156, Hayfork, CA 96041-0156; Tom Stokely (916) 628-5949

**b. Project Description:** The proposed project(s) would assist dramatically in restoration of Trinity River tributaries, including the South Fork Trinity River, by assisting farmers/ranchers with water conservation measures. There are several existing "wild flood" irrigation diversions in Trinity River tributaries (approximately 40, all less than 10 cfs), which substantially dewater tributary streams, discharge water unsuitable for healthy salmonids into streams, and pose migration barriers to adult and juvenile salmonids. Implementation of water conservation measures would include piping of unlined ditches and installation of pumps and sprinklers, with fish screens, as necessary. Trinity River fishery restoration goals are contained in federal legislation (P.L. 98-541 and 104-143) and can be met with tributary fishery restoration and/or mainstem Trinity River fishery/river restoration.

The proposed project will benefit primarily steelhead and coho, but also spring-run and fall chinook to a lesser degree.

**c. Approach/Tasks/Schedule:** Trinity County staff, NRCS staff and California Department of Fish and Game are in the process of identifying candidate diversions available for water conservation. Some pilot projects may be funded in the next year by the Trinity River Restoration Program. Several landowners have already contacted Trinity County staff because of fears related to listing of coho and steelhead and loss of water rights. After identification of projects, agreements will be developed with willing landowners. Category III funding would be used for subcontracts to construct selected solutions with minimum bypass flows. Most tasks can be completed within one to 3 years from funding approval. Funding through the Trinity River Restoration Program for this effort is expected to cease as of October 1, 1998.

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**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**  
**NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION**

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July 22, 1997

CALFED Bay-Delta Program Office  
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Inquiry Submittals for Category III Funding

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed are 10 copies each of two Inquiry Submittals for Category III Funding. The projects are "**Removal of Flood Hazard Obstructions to Implementation of Dam Releases Prescribed for Trinity River Fishery Restoration**" and "**Trinity River Tributaries Agricultural Water Conservation Program**". We respectfully request that you include the Trinity River basin in the geographic scope of your next Category III RFP. The Trinity River is officially a tributary of the Delta, according to Proposition 204, and should therefore be included in the Category III geographic scope.

The Trinity River has exported approximately 1 million acre-feet a year to the Central Valley Project and the Delta since project completion in 1963. The CVPIA (3406(b)(23)) requires that the Interior Secretary make a permanent decision on Trinity River fishery flows to meet the long-term Congressional goal of restoring Trinity River fisheries to levels that existed prior to construction of the Trinity River Division of the CVP. Therefore, it behooves the CALFED program to fund worthy projects which will help meet Trinity River fishery restoration goals in order to maximize the use of limited water resources for numerous beneficial uses.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (916) 628-5949.

Sincerely,

Tom Stokely,  
Senior Planner